

## MINISTERPLEADS FOR EARLY SHOPPING

Rev. James Shera Montgomery Says Home Merchants Should Be Patronized.

Shop early and patronize home merchants, is the counsel which Rev. James Shera Montgomery, pastor of Metropolitan Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, gave his congregation in a sermon last night on the theme, "The Man Who Claims His Own."

"The spirit of this day simply dogs the footsteps of the one who just claims his own," said Dr. Montgomery. "Unselfishness is the unending good of man; selfishness is the unending evil of man. The teethache of others, the toothache of self. The sins which catch the sinner while it is yet early morning. But with many, many folk it is so much easier to love the good Lord whom they have not seen than their neighbor whom they have seen. The world has never had any trouble in saying 'Amen' to the lives that follow."

"We are now in the forenoon of the Christmastide. It is no time to hold on to the rope and claim our own. It is plain Christian ethics to think of the convenience and the hardships of others. Is your Christmas shopping at your first convenience, and thus make lighter the already crowded and overworked lists? Don't be a bargainer hunting down, reading in the papers. You have the power to shop in other cities. But, without doubt, the right. Turn aside from that press of competition which comes into our city, flooding it with circulars, mailing inspection of samples, making plausible declarations. Stand by our home merchants, who, through their policies, contributions for public and private welfare are most emphatically entitled to our first and last considerations."

## SECULAR LEAGUE DEBATES SUFFRAGE

W. D. Mackenzie Is Chief Speaker and Advocates the Des Moines Plan of Government.

Charger that the advocates of self-government in the District are seeking to restore the form of government and the alleged corrupt politics which maintained in the District forty years ago were vehemently denied by W. D. Mackenzie, at the weekly debate of the Secular League in Pythian Temple yesterday afternoon. "The City for the People" was the topic.

Mr. Mackenzie advocated the Des Moines plan of city government, which has been adopted by about seventy cities in the United States. The secret of its success, he claimed, "is direct responsibility and direct popular control by the initiative, referendum, and recall."

Mr. Mackenzie adversely criticized the methods of the District Tax Assessor's office.

Mr. Mackenzie, who made the chief address, was followed by Dr. William Tindall, Secretary to the Commissioners who said he questioned whether any body would be willing to sacrifice the peace of the District. Martin Williams supported Mr. Mackenzie and declared "the half and half principle plan is to be the fruitful source of the evils which beset the District."

Others who participated in the debate were Hyatt C. Kirk, president of the Secular League; A. L. Thomas, Senator Salmon James G. Kraft, Dr. J. J. Shirey, J. S. H. Morris and Donald Macpherson.

### FAVORS KENYON BILL.

Dr. William P. Crafts talks to Y. M. C. A. audience.

Dr. William P. Crafts, superintendent of the International Reform Bureau, urged a large audience at the Y. M. C. A. in lecture, "A Straight Talk to Men on Washington Moral," to use their efforts and aid their friends, in an endeavor to secure the adoption of the Secular League's Bill of Rights in the Hill and to protest against the reappointment of Cuba H. Ridgdon as Disfranchised Commissioner, who, he said, was not in favor of trying to exterminate the social evil.

In reference to the attitude of the District officials toward the continued existence of a social hall in the National Capital, Dr. Crafts said:

"Washington has law enough to exterminate this evil, if enforced. The trouble is, that the Chief of Police and the District Commissioners have understood themselves to be a court of appeal and have suspended the action of law. They have the so-called segregation practice, but have defended this sort of thing. We must start off with a morally clean city, and we must protest against the continuance in office of officials who let these things take care of themselves."

### Historical Society Meets.

The Columbia Historical Society will meet to-morrow evening in the lecture hall of the Washington Club, 119½ I Street Northwest. A sketch of Dr. William H. Magruder will be given by Robert H. Barkman. The public is invited to attend. Mrs. Mary Stevens Beall is the secretary of the club.

### Children Attend Mass.

Members of the Society of the Children of Mary attended early morning mass yesterday at St. Patrick's, Rev. James A. Sartori, the rector of the mass, and the sermon was preached by Rev. J. M. McNamara.

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